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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Jeffrey L. Huckins	§	Group Art Unit:	2154
		§		
Serial No.:	09/652,168	§	Examiner:	Dustin Nguyen
		§		
Filed:	August 31, 2000	§	Atty. Dkt. No.:	ITL.0453US
		§		P9661
For:	Client Messaging in	§		
	Multicast Networks	§	Assignee:	Intel Corporation

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

In response to the new points raised by the Examiner under the heading Response to Argument, the following Reply Brief is submitted.

With respect to the rejection of claim 45, the Examiner continues to assert that a reference, which never even mentions multicasting, somehow teaches multicasting. Despite the citation of a dictionary definition of multicasting, the Examiner simply reinterprets multicasting to mean anything that communicates with something else.

Specifically, the Examiner defines multicasting as "the process of sending a message simultaneously to more than one destination on a network." See page 8 of the Examiner's Answer. Then he proceeds to find that a server that is simply connected to multiple clients defines a multicasting system. But unless we know how the server communicates with the clients (and we do not), there is no way to determine whether multicasting occurs here. For example, the server may send messages one at a time to the various clients. The cited reference never says one way or the other. The Examiner proceeds to suggest that "transmission to more

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than one destination or client is multicasting." But this is simply inconsistent with the Examiner's own proffered definition. I can send a message to clients one client at a time. The mere fact that I communicate from a server to clients does not mean multicasting has occurred. If this were so, there would be no need for the word "multicasting" because it would simply involve any transmission between two devices. Instead, multicasting, according to the Examiner, requires simultaneous transmission to more than one recipient. Since the Examiner's argument violates his own proffered definition, this alone is sufficient to reverse the rejection.

The same use of a teaching of the general to anticipate the specific logic is applied with respect to the element of claim 45 that involves determining whether a message sent to multiple client systems of a multicast system and received by a client system is addressed to an agent of the system. The claim element requires not only multicasting, but specifically addressing an agent within the client system. The Examiner broadly and vaguely suggests that merely sending messages to clients is commensurate with sending messages to specific agents within the client. Not only is this illogical, but it is baseless.

Regardless of whether the discovery agent "is responsible for determining what data is required by a particular discovery rule and activating the appropriate discovery agents," this does not mean that the server addresses specific agents. For example, messages could be addressed to the client and then the client itself forwards the messages to any agents that are to receive them. The reference simply is not specific at the point of novelty and there is no basis whatsoever for the conclusions drawn by the Examiner. The Examiner simply relies on a reference, which is silent at the point of novelty, when other alternatives could be practiced so that inherency cannot apply.

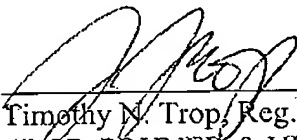
Given the failure of the reference to teach anything relevant to the claimed invention, there is no basis for the maintenance of the rejection and it should be reversed.

On the same basis, the rejection of claim 51 is deficient.

Therefore, reversal of the rejection would be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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